

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 SAB-01

PRS-01 EB-07 /051 W

----- 069789

R 221747Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 5790

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR WYROUGH - ARA/PAN

PER REQUEST WYROUGH-BLACKEN TELECON, FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF LEAD ARTICLE ON P. 1 OF PANAMA'S "STAR AND HERALD" FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 14 COVERING INTERVIEW GIVEN BY USCINCSO, LT. GEN. D.P. MCAULIFFE. HEADLINE: ZONE GENERAL FAVORS JOINT RP-US TRAINING. BEGIN QUOTE LT. GEN. D.P. MCAULIFFE, THE TOP U.S. MILITARY OFFICER IN THE CANAL ZONE, BELIEVES MORE COMBINED TRAINING BETWEEN AMERICAN FORCES AND THE PANAMA NATIONAL GUARD WILL LEAD ULTIMATELY TO THE 'COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP' SOUGHT IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. HE HOPES TO ENCOURAGE IT.

"HE FEELS THE RECENT PENTAGON DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS 'HAS SERVED TO CLEAR THE AIR AND TO CORRECT MANY MISIMPRESSIONS AND INDEED MYTHS.'

"HE HOPES THAT A SITUATION OF VIOLENCE CAN BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS FAIL: BUT 'IF VIOLENCE, HOWEVER, DOES ERUPT I POSITIVELY HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS COMMAND HAS THE OBLIGATION TO TAKE ALL THE APPROPRIATE MILITARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CANAL AND THE CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS.'

"HE EXPECTS THERE WILL BE SOME REDUCTION IN THE MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE CANAL ZONE AS A RESULT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVES TO ALL UNIFIED COMMANDS IN THE U.S. ARMED  
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FORCES.

"THESE WERE AMONG HIS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STAR & HERALD.

"GEN. MCAULIFFE, 53, TOOK OVER AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND ON AUG. 1.

"IT IS HIS FIRST TOUR ON THE ISTHMUS AND HE IS FINDING IT AN 'EYE OPENER,' GEN. MCAULIFFE SAID, CITING THE EXTENSIVE OPERATION OF SHIPS, PORT FACILITIES AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES HE HAS SEEN ON THE ISTHMUS.

"HE ALSO IS IMPRESSED BY THE 'HIGH QUALIFY' OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES IN HIS COMMAND. THE COMMANDERS, GEN. MCAULIFFE POINTED OUT, 'HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS QUALITY, TO EXPLAIN IN DEPTH THE SITUATION THAT EXISTS HERE--THEY HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO EXPLAIN THE PANAMANIAN VIEWS ON THE CANAL SO THAT THE MEN WILL HAVE AN IDEA OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY WORK AND OPERATE.'

"HE REPLIED WITH A FIRM 'ABSOLUTELY' WHEN HE WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THIS PRACTICE WHICH HE REGARDS AS 'ENGENDERING, HOPEFULLY, A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE.'

"IT WAS WHILE REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PANAMANIAN AND U.S. MILITARY HERE THAT GEN. MCAULIFFE MADE THE COMMENT ON COMBINED TRAINING.

"'I HOPE,' HE SAID, 'IN THE COURSE OF MY DUTY HERE TO BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE A LITTLE MORE COMBINED TRAINING BETWEEN THE U.S. FORCES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE GUARDIA NACIONAL ON THE OTHER IN SOME TRAINING INSTALLATIONS IN THE CANAL ZONE AND RECIPROCALLY IN TRAINING INSTALLATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC. THIS HAS OCCURRED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST AND I FULLY SUPPORT THIS OBJECTIVE AND HOPE TO BE ABLE PERHAPS TO ENCOURAGE IT MORE IN THE FUTURE. SUCH TRAINING WILL LEAD ULTIMATELY TO THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP SOUGHT BY THE NEGOTIATORS IMPLICIT IN THE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE BEING WORKED OUT.'

"IN CONNECTION WITH RELATIONS WITH THE PANAMA NATIONAL GUARD, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GEN. MCAULIFFE CITED THE COMBINED NATIONAL GUARD-U.S. ARMY PATROLS AS 'EXCEEDINGLY WORTHWHILE.'

"THEY ARE REALLY FIRST RATE,' HE COMMENTED.

"' I WANT TO KEEP THESE CONTACTS AS CLOSE AND CORDIAL AS POSSIBLE' HE ADDED. 'WHEN I LOOK AT THE RECORD OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY MEMBERS IN THE REPUBLIC, I FIND THE

INCIDENT RATE IS FAR LESS THAN AT SOME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS  
IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLE FORT BRAGG AND FORD HOOD.  
AND I FIND THAT WHEN A SOLDIER GETS IN TROUBLE IN PANAMA AND  
COLON, INVARIABLY THE GUARDIA NACIONAL IS VERY HELPFUL IN GETTING  
THEM OUT OF TROUBLE BEFORE IT GETS WORSE.'

"HE TERMED THE RELATIONS AT THE COMMAND LEVEL 'VERY GOOD,  
VERY CORRECT,' ADDING THAT WHEN MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAVE CALLED  
ON THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE GUARDIA, THE LATTER 'HAVE HANDLED  
THE PROBLEMS QUIETLY AND EFFICIENTLY.'

"GEN. MCAULIFFE WAS ASKED WHAT, IN HIS VIEW, WAS THE SIG-  
NIFICANCE OF THE STATEMENT MADE IN PANAMA BY GEN. GEORGE BROWN,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, TO THE EFFECT THAT  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORTS A NEW PANAMA-UNITED STATES  
TREATY.

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ACTION ARA-10

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PRS-01 EB-07 /051 W

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R 221747Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5192

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR WYROUGH - ARA/PAN

"IT HAS SERVED TO CLEAR THE AIR,' HE REPLIED, 'AND TO  
CORRECT MANY MISIMPRESSIONS AND INDEED MYTHS CREATED LARGELY IN  
THE WASHINGTON AREA AS TO THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THE STATEMENT,  
THEREFORE, IS -- I WOULD SAY -- VERY USEFUL NOT ONLY IN TERMS  
OF INFORMING THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS HERE

IN THE REPUBLIC, BUT ALSO OUR OWN MILITARY PERSONNEL, HOW OUR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND ITS LEADERSHIP REGARD THE TREATY. THAT, I THINK, IS THE SIGNIFICANCE.'

"WHAT, HE WAS ASKED WOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE SOUTHERN COMMAND IF, AS OFFICIALS BOTH IN PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE WARNED, FAILURE OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS LED TO VIOLENCE HERE. THIS WAS HIS REPLY:

"THAT IS THE KIND OF SITUATION THAT I HOPE CAN BE AVOIDED. I, FOR ONE, AM HAPPY TO NOTE THE DESIRE OF BOTH GEN. (OMAR) TORRIJOS AND HIS LEADERSHIP AND THE U.S. LEADERSHIP ON THE OTHER HAND TO TAKE EVERY PRUDENT STEP TO AVOID EVER COMING TO THAT SITUATION. IF VIOLENCE, HOWEVER, DOES ERUPT, I POSITIVELY HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS COMMAND HAS THE OBLIGATION TO TAKE ALL THE APPROPRIATE MILITARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CANAL AND THE CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS.  
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"IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, GEN. MCAULIFFE SAID HE IS 'SATISFIED THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCES HERE IN THE CANAL ZONE CAN INDEED MEET ANY FORESEEABLE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AT THE PRESENT TIME.' HE PLACED THAT LEVEL AT 10,000 TROOPS.

"BUT EARLIER IN THE INTERVIEW, HE SPOKE OF MILITARY MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN THE SOUTHERN COMMAND UNIFIED HEADQUARTERS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL UNIFIED COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. HE CITED AS AN INDICATION THE FACT THAT HE, A 3-STAR OFFICER, HAS SUCCEEDED A 4-STAR GENERAL AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF. THE COMPONENT SERVICES, HE ADDED, ALSO ARE LOOKING TO SOME REDUCTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, STEMMING FROM DEFENSE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS.

"THE MILITARY MANPOWER CUTS, THE SIZE OF WHICH IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME, WILL HAVE 'VERY LITTLE EFFECT' ON CIVILIAN MANPOWERBN GEN. MCAULIFFE SAID.

"THE SOUTHERN COMMAND'S CHIEF ALSO REPLIED TO QUESTIONS ON TWO LOCAL CONTROVERSIAL SITUATIONS: ONE, THE RECENT TRAINING IN THE CANAL ZONE BY TROOPS OF THE U.S. ARMY'S 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, AND THE OTHER THE COMMAND'S TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARMED FORCES.

"HE SAID THERE WAS 'ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION' BETWEEN THE PRESENCE OF THE AIRBORNE TROOPS AND PANAMA'S DECISION TO JOIN THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS GROUP. 'THE FACT IS THE PRESENCE OF UNITS OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION HAS BEEN A REGULAR EVENT HERE IN THE CANAL ZONE FOR SOMETHING LIKE TEN YEARS' HE POINTED OUT.

"ARMY AND MARINE CORPS COMBAT UNITS COME HERE REGULARLY FOR JUNGLE TRAINING--'AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT,' HE SAID, ADDING: 'THE EXPERTS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THERE IS PRESENT IN THE CANAL ZONE AND CONTIGUOUS AREAS A TYPE JUNGLE THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF EVERY KIND OF JUNGLE IN THE WORLD, AND THIS IS ATTRACTIVE TO US MILITARILY.'

"MENTIONING THAT ANOTHER 82ND AIRBORNE UNIT IS DUE HERE SOON FOR JUNGLE TRAINING, GEN. MCAULIFFE POINTED OUT THAT THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT IS REGULARLY ADVISED OF THE ARRIVAL OF SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITS AND IS INVIGED TO OBSERVE THE TRAINING. THESE UNITS, HE WENT ON, ALSO ARE SENT FOR COLD-CLIMATE TRAINING IN ALASKA.

"THE GENERAL SAID HE IS AWARE OF CRITICISM BY PANAMA OF THE SOUTHERN COMMAND'S TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARMED FORCES. WHILE THIS PROGRAM IS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL, HE EXPLAINED, IT HAS TO DO WITH THE OTHER MAJOR MISSION OF THE SOUTHERN COMMAND INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES' SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. PART OF THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE, HE SAID, IS TO OFFER USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE TRAINING.

"'I'M VERY AWARE OF THE CRITICISM THAT HAS BEEN VOICED AGAINST THESE SCHOOLS, THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE INTER-AMERICAN AIR FORCES ACADEMY, TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY TEACH ONLY COUNTER-INSURGENCY. I THINK THIS IS COMPLETELY UNFAIR. I HAVE FOUND IN MY VISITS TO THESE SCHOOLS THAT SOME VERY USEFUL TECHNICAL SKILLS AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE TAUGHT THAT CAN BE APPLIED VERY PRODUCTIVELY WITHIN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES,' HE DECLARED.

"GEN. MCAULIFFE REGARDS THIS ACTIVITY AS BEING SO IMPORTANT THAT HE HOPES IN ANY FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS SOME PROVISION WILL BE MADE TO CONTINUE WITH THESE SCHOOLS, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY RUN BY THE UNITED STATES.

"'WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP OUT TOWARDS THAT ULTIMATE ARRANGEMENT,' HE SAID.

"STRESSING THAT THE SCHOOLS' COURSES ARE TAILORED TO WHAT THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES ASK, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WANT AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BE ENLARGED.

"IN GEN. MCAULIFFE'S OPINION, THE PANAMA CANAL IS ABOUT AS IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES, FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, AS IT WAS IN WORLD WAR II. THIS IS BECAUSE, AS HE PUTS

IT, WITH THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF VESSELS AVAILABLE IN THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE U.S. NAVY RESULTING FROM THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, 'WE MUST HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF MOVING NAVAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCES FROM ONE OCEAN TO THE OTHER.' IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT, FORCES DEPLOYED OUT OF THEIR HOME COUNTRY NEED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT--FOOD, FUEL, SPARE PARTS.

"THIS KIND OF SUPPLY LINE,' GEN. MCAULIFFE SAID, 'DEPENDS LARGELY ON SURFACE SHIPS, NOT NECESSARILY NAVAL SHIPS BUT COMMERCIAL SHIPS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS KIND OF REQUIREMENTS, THE PANAMA CANAL FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THIS KIND OF SUPPLY.' END QUOTE

JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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